# Twelve caretaker GB ministers sworn in

By Jamil Nagri

GILGIT: Twelve ministers of Gilgit-Baltistan caretaker government took oath of their offices at a ceremony held at Governor House on Tuesday, five days after being notified.

Acting Governor and Speaker of GB Assembly Advocate Nazir Ahmed administered the oath to the GB caretaker ministers.

Following are names of caretaker ministers and their portfolios:

Sajid Ali Baig, Minister for Home and Prison; Engineer Altaf Hussain, Minister for Local Government and Rural Development; Ghulam Abbas, Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Information Technology; Retired Col Abrar Ismail, Minister for Finance, Planning and Development; Meher Dad, Minister for Food; Sharafat Din, Minister for Forest, Wildlife and Environment; Maulana Sarwar Shah, Minister for Mineral, Industries, Labour and Commerce; Raja Shehbaz Khan, Minister for Tourism, Excise and Taxation, Communication and Works; Mumtaz Hussain, Minister for Water and Power; Dr Niaz Ali, Minister for Health; Syed Adil Shah, Minister for Sports, Culture and Youth Affairs; and Bahadur Ali, Minister for Education, Law and Prosecution.

The oath-taking ceremony was attended by GB Chief Secretary Abrar Ahmed Mirza, former GB Chief Minister Haji Gulbar Khan, officials and politicians.

Meanwhile, Syeda Fatima assumed the office as Adviser for Social Welfare, Population and Women Development, while Abdul Hakeem as Adviser for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Water Management.

On Friday, five weeks after the appointment of a caretaker chief minister, the Gilgit-Baltistan Council notified a 14-member caretaker cabinet, including two advisers. The appointments were made by PM Shehbaz Sharif in his capacity as head of the GB Council.

The five-year tenure of the GB Assembly ended on Nov 24 and GB caretaker Chief Minister Yar Muhammad was sworn in on Nov 26.

Talking to journalists after the oath-taking ceremony of caretaker ministers, caretaker Information Minister Ghulam Abbas said the priority of the caretaker government is to ensure free, fair and transparent elections in the region and it would provide all facilities to GB election commission in this regard.

TWELVE ministers of Gilgit-Baltistan caretaker government take oath of office at Governor House.—Dawn

# Arrest warrants out against PTI leaders in May 9 case

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were granted access to the PTI founder, they would not be a part of the court proceedings. During the hearing, the court also took notice of the absence of several accused and issued non-bailable arrest warrants for 40 to 45 accused who failed to appear.

**Trial via video link**

The court provided defence lawyers with a copy of the Punjab government's notification regarding the conduct of the trial through a video link. According to the notification issued on October 30 last year, proceedings in the May 9 GHQ attack case are to be conducted via video link.

Later, the court adjourned the hearing until January 20.

Separately, the hearing of the Judicial Complex attack case against the PTI founder and other accused in the Anti-Terrorism Court, Islamabad, was adjourned without proceedings due to the unavailability of Judge Tahir Abbas Sipra. The court fixed the next date of hearing for February 6.

Similarly, the hearing of another case registered at the Secretariat Police Station was also adjourned without proceedings owing to the judge's absence. As a result, statements of witnesses could not be recorded, and the next hearing was fixed for January 12.


Office of the Executive Engineer (Building-III)

**GWADAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

GOVERNMENT OF BALOCHISTAN (PAKISTAN)

Tel: (92-86) 920 1010-11, Fax: (92-86) 920 1020

Website: www.gda.gov.pk Email: info@gda.gov.pk

**TENDER NOTICE**

**TSE-252601938953**

**Only electronic bid will be submitted, No physical bid is required.**

**Note:** In All **Procurements** of **GOB** Whether through **Electronic** or **Manual Bid Submission**, It is **Mandatory** for **All Bidders** to **Get Registered** at **Electronic Public Procurement System** of **BPPRA GOB**.

The **Gwadar Development Authority** invites bids from **Eligible Bidders** for execution of following works for the Year **2026** based on Composite schedule rates 2023 on Percentage Rates.

| S.No | Name of Works | Tender Fee | Bid Security |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Construction of Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) & Allied Facilities under the Project "Construction of Sewerage Network for Old Town & Dhore Ghatti, Gwadar Phase-II" | PKR 2,000 | 2% |
| Estimated Cost : 403,857,511 | | | |

**PROCUREMENTS shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014.**

**ELIGIBILITY OF BIDDERS:**

- Presence in Active Tax Payer List
- The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan
- Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required
- The bidder must have completed 2 Assignment of similar nature of work
- Turnover of at least 282,700,257 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm
- Registration with Pakistan Engineering council (PEC) C-3 and above (Upto 500 million) In Relevant Category and Specialized Code is EE04 (Low Voltage Installation), EE05 (High Voltage Installation), CE04 (i) (Dams/Water Retaining Structures), CE10 (i) (General Civil Engineering Works), CEIO (viii) (Waterproofing), ME06 (vi) (Miscellaneous Mechanical Equipment), ME06 (viii) (Specialized Plant).

**PROCEDURE OF PROCUREMENT:**

Single Stage Two Envelope Bidding Procedure

**BID SECURITY:**

The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of **Bank Guarantee, Deposit at Call of 2%** specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank.

**TENDER DOCUMENTS:**

Tender Documents: The NIT & Bidding Document can be obtained electronically from BPPRA website www.bppra.gob.pk and (PKR 2000/- as applicable tender Fee / bidding documents charges) to be deposited in the head of account **GDA Accumulated Collection or Fund** account **3002-0081-0083-6601** through **Bank Al-Habib Ltd. Gwadar Branch.**

**ISSUANCE OF TENDER DOCUMENTS:**

Complete Bidding Document can be viewed at **www.bppra.gob.pk**

**LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION:**

Bid can only be submitted electronically latest by **29th January, 2026** till 11:00 AM through supplier dashboard.

**TENDERS OPENING:**

All tenders will be opened on same day at **12:00 PM on EPPS System**

**Address:** Office of the Executive Engineer (B-III), Gwadar Development Authority, Gwadar
**Phone no:** 8649201010 **Fax no:**
**Email:** info@gda.gov.pk.

**Executive Engineer (Building-III)**
GWADAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
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# JF-17 purchase

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basic to advanced flying and specialised courses across PAF institutions, it said. "He also assured fast-tracked delivery of Super Mushshak trainer aircraft, along with a complete training and long-term support ecosystem," it added.

"The Bangladeshi air chief praised PAF's combat record and expressed interest in benefiting from its operational expertise, seeking assistance in maintenance support for Bangladesh Air Force's aging fleet and integration of air defence radar systems to enhance air surveillance," the statement said.

"Detailed discussions were also held on the potential procurement of JF-17 Thunder aircraft," it said, adding that the delegation also visited key PAF facilities. The multi-role fighter has proven its combat capabilities during recent conflicts with India.

# Afghan Taliban now 'mother of all terror groups'

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deciding to hold talks with them while a "great game was being played in Afghanistan".

The DG highlighted how the data showed that terrorism began to rise in 2021.

Sharing data about suicide bombing incidents, he said a total of 27 had taken place in 2025. Of these, 16 occurred in KP, 10 in Balochistan, and one in Islamabad, at the judicial complex.

Positing why the majority of terror incidents took place in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, he answered his own question, saying: "The primary reason for this is the politically conducive environment provided [to terrorists], and the political-terror nexus that is flourishing in the province," he said.

Later, during the Q&A with journalists, when asked whether the military leadership had any role in the 2021 "rehabilitation" policy and their accountability, and whether calling out only the political leadership would be "selective justice", he refuted the claim that the military leadership had any input in the decision.

**Action against Afghanistan**

The ISPR chief also acknowledged that Pakistan had struck terrorist bases along the Pak-Afghan border in October — marking the first official admission of that action. Although Kabul had earlier accused Pakistan of carrying out the airstrikes, which it claimed had killed many civilians, Islamabad had not formally acknowledged the operation.

But in Tuesday's presser, Lt Gen Chaudhry said that Pakistan had only targeted terrorists, not the Afghan Taliban or their posts.

"And what did the Afghan Taliban regime do, which is acting as a proxy and a base of operations for Indians? They attacked Pakistani posts, coming in direct support of the terrorists. So the state of Pakistan did what was necessary," he said.

He also rubbished any parallels between India's actions in May and Pakistan's reprisals against Afghanistan in October, saying: "India targeted Pakistani citizens; Pakistan, however, did not target Afghans … We targeted our own citizens who were present there and involved in terrorism in Pakistan."

He stressed that the border had been closed for a reason, which had also been communicated to Kabul.

At another point, when asked about Afghanistan's demand for a separate trade pact to reopen the border, the ISPR chief stated that the border closure only had "advantages" for Pakistan and no losses, as terrorism was permeating through it.

Asked what the "long-term solution" for Afghanistan was, he said, "We will play all the cards, and we will engage with them where we have to in a hard manner. Where we have to engage them diplomatically, we will do that as well."

**Drone attacks**

Speaking about technical surveillance and engagement, he said a narrative was created that Pakistan's military was using drones.

But in fact, it was the terrorists who began using those armed quadcopters, he said, adding that 405 quadcopter attacks by the terrorists were reported from KP alone during the year.

"Their patron — India — provides them with funds, technical inventory and other assistance. So they have now started going into this armed quadcopter business. They also have a special wing for quadcopters in their organisations. They also use mosques, public places and houses as human shields."

He explained that law enforcement bodies, including police and armed forces, were using drones only for technical surveillance.

**Assailing activists**

Talking about the India-Afghan Taliban nexus, he also played various clips from the Indian media as a portrayal of the "collusion".

In this connection, he also mentioned those who "promoted terrorism under the guise of human rights and democracy." He specifically cited a BUITEMS professor, who, he claimed, had confessed to being involved in terrorism.

The military spokesperson said the professor was defended by people in Pakistan and abroad, and showed social media posts by various users, including freelance journalist Kiyya Baloch, the Baloch Yakjehti Committee leader Mahrang Baloch, and human rights activist Imaan Zainab Mazari-Haazir.

The ISPR chief also rejected the impression that the fight against terrorism was being carried out in the pursuit of "dollars and minerals".

He then said that the Afghan Taliban was not a government but a group that had occupied Afghanistan, under whose patronage more than a dozen terrorist organisations had been operating.

"Everyone knows this but the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government," he said, and decried its leaders for opposing military operations in the province.

"No one can allow you to hand over your areas to terrorists for your politics and to facilitate whosoever."

**Faiz 'used for politics'**

During the subsequent Q&A, the ISPR DG referred to Imran Khan — without naming him — as someone who was "running his party like a dictator", and said that it was his insistence to hold talks with the Afghan regime.

The ISPR chief also pointed out that the then-intelligence chief — referring to Faiz Hameed — was "used for politics".

"You cannot put this [blame] on the institution; it was a field of characters," he said.

# Balochistan merges Levies into police

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Additional Chief Secretary Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat on Monday evening.

It said all members of the Levies Force, both provincial and ex-federal, serving in the converted areas, as well as members of the CPEC Wing, were merged into the Balochistan Police in their existing nomenclature, ranks, pay scales and benefits, corresponding to those applicable to police personnel.

Furthermore, the services, administration and functioning of the merged Levies Force and the converted areas will henceforth be governed by the provisions of the Balochistan Police Act.

The notification said that in continuation of the decision, all budgetary allocations and finances, DDO codes, arms and ammunition, police stations, check-posts and pickets, vehicles, records and investigations, training institutions, and all ancillary and auxiliary infrastructure pertaining to the Levies Force in the converted areas would be transferred to the Balochistan Police with immediate effect.

It further stated that the superintendent of police of a converted district would, upon request, place police personnel at the disposal of the district administration and other government functionaries for assistance in the enforcement of local and special laws and for other lawful public duties.

The commissioners of Sibi and Loralai divisions have been directed to complete the transition process within 30 days of the issuance of the notification.

**'Ambiguity resolved'**

Chief Minister Sarfraz Bugti, in a post on X, said the "longstanding administrative ambiguity over the implementation of a uniform law in Balochistan has been officially resolved".

"The division into A and B area categories has been abolished, and the Levies Force has been formally and legally merged into the Balochistan Police," he said, adding that the decision would clarify state responsibilities and further strengthen the scope of public protection.

The matter also came up in the ISPR chief's press conference on Tuesday. Talking about the move, Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry said, "This will have far-reaching consequences. This is again part of efforts to combat terrorism at the ground level and terror-crime nexus at the grassroots level."

In October last year, the Balochistan government merged the provincial and federal Levies forces with the police in six out of eight administrative divisions of the province, declaring these divisions as A-areas.

The six divisions included Quetta, Kalat, Makran, Zhob, Rakhshan and Nasirabad. However, the Levies Force in Sibi and Loralai divisions, which included Dera Bugti, Sibi, Kohlu, Harnai, Ziarat and other districts, were not merged into the Balochistan Police.

**Professional responsibilities**

The Balochistan Police have stepped up efforts to strengthen their training system and improve residential and welfare facilities to better prepare former Levies personnel, merged from 'B' areas to 'A' areas, for their professional responsibilities.

Officials said that enhancing the quality of policing was essential to restoring public trust and ensuring sustainable law and order in the province.

As part of the initiative, professionalism, transparency, accountability and the use of modern technology have been declared essential for effective policing. Significant improvements have been made to accommodation and basic facilities at the Police Training College (PTC), Quetta, to create a more conducive and efficient training environment for trainees from various districts of Balochistan.

At present, 772 former Levies personnel are availing training and residential facilities at PTC Quetta.

A comprehensive three-month training programme for personnel merged from 'B' areas to 'A' areas began on Jan 1 this year. The programme includes physical training, weapons handling, marksmanship and counterterrorism skills to enable trainees to respond effectively to security challenges.

Training is being conducted on modern lines, with special emphasis on improving investigative skills, legal awareness, intelligence-based policing and community participation.

PTC Commandant Shahzad Akbar said residential blocks had been equipped with modern facilities to provide safe and comfortable accommodation to personnel during training. He added that a modern futsal ground had been established to promote physical fitness and healthy activities, while the parade ground had been upgraded to meet training requirements and ensure safety during practical exercises.

*Muhammad Akbar Notezai also contributed to this report*

# Rs2.5bn plan for Nasirabad uplift unveiled

By Ali Jan Mangi

DERA MURAD JAMALI: Balochistan Minister for Irrigation Mir Sadiq Umrani on Tuesday unveiled a master plan for the development of eastern Nasirabad area.

Under the plan, according to him, development projects worth Rs2.5 billion would be completed in the public health engineering, sewerage and sanitation, road infrastructure and other sectors to provide maximum facilities to the people of the district.

"The master plan will be implemented with honesty and dedication and no compromise will be allowed on the execution of development projects," he claimed.

The minister said with the implementation of the master plan, the infrastructure of Dera Murad Jamali and other areas would be improved, and people would benefit from a better road network as well as improved water supply and sanitation systems.

Nasirabad Deputy Commissioner Zulfiqar Ali Karar, Sardar Sakhi Shahnawz Umrani, Mir Shoukat Rakhshani, Mir Bilal Umrani, Bashir Nasar and Abdul Rehman Kakar were present on the occasion.

# CM Bugti stresses need to counter anti-state narrative

By Our Staff Correspondent

QUETTA: The Balochistan chief minister warned on Tuesday that the government would take action against anti-social forces spreading "baseless and misleading propaganda against the state".

Mir Sarfraz Bugti, chairing a meeting of the board of governors of the Balochistan Centre of Excellence, highlighted the importance of raising awareness among the youth about "ground realities".

The meeting was attended, among others, by Chief Secretary Shakeel Qadir Khan, Additional Chief Secretary Hamza Shafqaat and Inspector General of Police Muhammad Tahir.

Sarfraz Bugti said the Center of Excellence would serve as a platform for research, raising awareness about "anti-state narratives" and working out strategies for countering them.

The chief minister stressed the need for expanding "institutional cooperation" and upgrading present strategies to "counter extremism effectively".

Mr Bugti said the government would promote "fact-based narratives" through educational institutions and social media to shield the younger generation from "misleading influences'.

He emphasised the need for raising awareness among the youth about the "activities of anti-state elements", terming it 'indispensable for sustainable peace and order" in the province.

The meeting reviewed the law and order situation, counter-extremism initiatives, and discussed ways to tackle 'terrorism'.

Directives were issued to each of the agencies engaged in the fight against terrorists to work in tandem with the other organisations so that the government can strike a decisive blow to "forces out to destabilise" the province.

# 34pc less rainfall in December: PMD

By Aamir Yasin

RAWALPINDI: The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) stated that the country received 34 per cent less rainfall in December last year.

According to data shared by the PMD, Pakistan received 10.3 millimetres of rain in December 2025, which was 34 per cent lower than the 15.8mm of rain the winter month normally experiences.

Azad Jammu Kashmir recorded 28.2mm, Balochistan 11.8mm, Gilgit-Baltistan 8.1mm, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa 15.5mm, Punjab 3.7mm, and Sindh 7.9mm. The mean temperature across the country was recorded at 13.8 Celsius.

It was 11.6 Celsius in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, 15 Celsius in Balochistan, 5.9 Celsius in Gilgit-Baltistan, 11.5 Celsius in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 14.4 Celsius in Punjab and 18.5 Celsius in Sindh.

On Monday, a PMD official said prolonged dry and chilly conditions, along with dense fog in some areas, will prevail until February without any predictions of rain or snowfall.

**No extreme cold**

The PMD statement also refuted earlier reports of an 'extreme cold winter' in the country, saying that meteorological data rejected the misleading claim. It said unverified claims had circulated in social and print media regarding the likelihood of an extremely cold winter in Pakistan. At the time, the Met office had also rejected this claim.

According to the statement, such claims were not supported by the Pakistan Meteorological Department's Seasonal Winter Forecast (December–February) or by prevailing regional and global climate indicators.

It said the observed conditions during December were consistent with PMD's seasonal outlook for December-February 2025–26.